



## **STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **\$138 MILLION IN STIMULUS PROJECTS TO BE LET IN JUNE**

DOUGLAS, GA – The State Transportation Board has selected 41 projects, valued at \$138 million, for the second installment of Phase One of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) transportation stimulus projects across Georgia. The projects will be advertised for bids and awarded to contractors in June and be among hundreds throughout the state in the coming year utilizing \$932 million in federal funds designed to create and sustain jobs.

The Board, meeting here today, voted to focus the Georgia Department of Transportation's June letting primarily on moving the ARRA work forward. Accordingly, the projects, ranging from building new sidewalks in Ellaville in Schley County to replacing a bridge over Polecat Creek in Gordon County to resurfacing Interstate Highway 575 north of Metro Atlanta, will be let (prospective contractors' bids accepted and opened) on June 19 [for those being administered by Georgia DOT; some projects will be let by jurisdictional local governments]. Bid awards to contractors should occur a week later and actual construction begin in August. The Board also approved seeking bids in June for nine additional non-stimulus program projects, which are estimated to cost \$11.5 million and will be funded through traditional sources.

"It is vital to our economy that we move forward with approving construction projects so that contractors can get back to work, and this will, in turn afford thousands of Georgians the opportunity to work," Transportation Board Chairman Bill Kuhlke, Jr., noted. "Releasing 41 more construction projects throughout the state is tremendous." We've instructed Department staff to make stimulus implementation, which is all about creating and saving jobs for Georgians, a top priority of Georgia DOT."

The combined total from this release and the previous month is 90 ARRA Georgia projects, cumulatively worth some \$249 million. Pending future Board letting decisions and certification by Governor Sonny Perdue, some 45 remaining Phase One projects will be let in subsequent months. In addition, by December the Board is expected to select projects for another \$340+ million in Phase Two ARRA funding.

The ARRA is a national effort to create jobs and transform America's economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments will be made in transportation infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation.

Georgia DOT is responsible for 70 percent of Georgia's \$932 million in highway system ARRA funds. The remaining 30 percent goes to the state's 15 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), which are determining projects to be funded from their respective allocations. The state also is receiving \$144 million in similar stimulus funds for public transit and is eligible for additional highway, rail and aviation grants from funds totaling \$12.1 billion.

All selected ARRA stimulus projects will be fully funded by the federal government; no state or local matching funds are required.

Georgia DOT has created a Web page ([www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus](http://www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus)) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process. **The list of projects selected for the June letting can be viewed on this page, along with other important ARRA information.**

In other action today, Georgia DOT Chief Operating Officer Steve Henry briefed Board members on the Department's efforts to "right-size" its maintenance force. Maintenance crews and facilities throughout the state will be consolidated into central locations to establish regional coverage areas. "Service levels will go down," Henry said, "and you may see some current maintenance facilities close, but we are making every effort to be efficient with the resources we have."

The Board met in Douglas in Coffee County and heard a presentation by Coffee Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority Executive Director Joann Lewis, who said tourism accounts from \$80 million and 200,000 visitors to the General Coffee State Park and that most of those visitors travel via state highways.

The State Transportation Board determines policy and exercises general governance of Georgia's Department of Transportation. The Board's 13 members, representing each of the state's congressional districts, serve staggered, five-year terms. Board members are elected by those state senators and representatives whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the relevant congressional district.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site ([www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov)).

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